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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2162

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/923,440

Applicant(s)

MATSUNAGA, HIDEKI

Examiner

Anh Ly

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is response to Applicant's AMENDMENT and RCE filed on 10/31/2007.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

2. The request filed on 10/31/2007 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/923,440 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.
3. Claim 19 has been added.
4. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 7-10 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.: 6,178,422 B1 issued to Tada et al. (hereinafter Tada) in view of US Patent No.: 5,819,295 issued to Nakagawa et al. (hereinafter Nakagawa).

With respect to claim 1, Tada teaches an object management method for performing access control for a stored object (document management to conduct an access control operator in which a document to be outputted as a retrieval result under a retrieval condition by a user or retriever or controlled in accordance with an authorized level or retriever (col. 1, lines 5-12; and col. 7, lines 35-40, figs. 7 and 9), the method comprising the steps of:

defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object (when a document is registered or stored, retrieval data for document retrieval is created for each registered document. So each user or group want to retrieve the stored object or stored/registered document, he/she should have accessible or retrieval condition to that object comparing with the access control table in which information indicating accessibility of groups of users or users as the object/document retrievers for the document being registered and the access right information setting to the users: col. 2, lines 1-38; also, col. 7, lines 5-18, and lines 35-52 and col. 8, lines 1-12);

setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition (allowing the user completely authenticated to access document management system containing registered documents for which access authentication has been already established, thereby conducting the access control operation; and to accomplish the access control operation for each document object through the user authentication, and access control operation in a plurality of levels corresponding to groups to which users belong. when users having different authorized access levels are allowed to access a document, the document is required to be registered to a plurality of databases, also,

access right is depending to each user to each document object: the access right information to each user associated to the document and retrieval condition (col. 1, lines 45-67 and col. 2, lines 1-8 and col. 7, lines 7, lines 10-18 and col. 8, lines 18-35); and

setting an identifier for identifying the object, the identifier associated with the object in one-to-one relationship (a user belonging to the group is allowed to access the document; a document retrieval step of retrieving, in a retrieval operation of a document, the document by referring to retrieval data beforehand registered; an accessible document list creation step of extracting from the access table document lists including entries thereof associated with a user group to which a retriever of the document belongs, conducting a conjunction operation between the document lists, thereby creating an accessible document list including a list of documents which can be accessed by the retriever and when the access is to be allowed, in the access control table, namely, there is recorded information that users belonging to the group are allowed to access the pertinent document. In other words, when the access right information is set to group 1 in association with a document with document number 7, '1' is set to an entry of group 1 corresponding to document number 7; whereas, '0' is kept unchanged in entries of other groups: col. 2, lines 50-67, col. 3, lines 1-15 and col. 7, lines 10-18, lines 35-50).

Tada teaches a document management system for controlling access right to a registered document via an access control table containing information indicating accessibility of groups including users as document retriever for the document being

registered and the access right information to each user associated to the document and retrieval condition. And attribute information for all documents retrieved as a result of the retrieval operation to determine whether or not the user belongs to a group of users allowed to access the document. Tada does not explicitly teach the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object and in response to an access request from a user for the object matching the retrieval condition and the identifier, performing access control on the basis of the access right.

However, Nakagawa teaches a document having attributes such as a date when a document was made (col. 5, lines 1-45 and col. 8, col. lines 42-67); and performing the access control based on the access right and displaying the result (col. 9, lines 18-45 and col. 10, lines 10-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Tada with the teachings of Nakagawa. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of determining a attribute of the object such as date creator as retrieval condition and performing matching retrieval condition and access right to the document as disclosed (Nakagawa's col. 5, lines 1-45 and col. 9, lines 18-45), into the system of Tada for the purpose of managing registered document and retrieving document, document storing and managing as the retrieval condition (Nakagawa's col. 1, lines 8-10 and col. 4, lines 30-50 and line 65-67).

With respect to claim 7, Tada teaches wherein the object is stored with attribute data, and the retrieval condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data (attribute information of all documents: sections 0012-0013).

With respect to claim 8, Tada teaches wherein the object is stored with attribute data and a method for referring to an entity of the object, and the retrieval condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data and the entity of the object referred to by the method (sections 0012-0013).

With respect to claim 9, Tada teaches wherein the access right is a specification about a user and an access type allowed to access the object (access right information such as reading, writing or executing to be set to the user; sections 0069 and 0086-0088).

Claim 10 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 16 is essentially the same as claim 7 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 7 hereinabove.

Claim 17 is essentially the same as claim 8 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 8 hereinabove.

Claim 18 is essentially the same as claim 9 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 9 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 19, Tada teaches an object management method for performing access control for a stored object (document management to conduct an access control operator in which a document to be outputted as a retrieval result under a retrieval condition by a user or retriever or controlled in accordance with an authorized level or retriever (col. 1, lines 5-12; and col. 7, lines 35-40, figs. 7 and 9), the method comprising the steps of:

defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object (col. 2, lines 1-38; also, col. 7, lines 5-18, and lines 35-52 and col. 8, lines 1-12); and

setting an identifier for identifying the object, the identifier associated with the object in a one-to-one relationship (col. 2, lines 50-67, col. 3, lines 1-15 and col. 7, lines 10-18, lines 35-50).

Tada teaches a document management system for controlling access right to a registered document via an access control table containing information indicating accessibility of groups including users as document retriever for the document being registered and the access right information to each user associated to the document and retrieval condition. And attribute information for all documents retrieved as a result of the retrieval operation to determine whether or not the user belongs to a group of users allowed to access the document. Tada does not explicitly teach the retrieval condition being separate from the object and defined based on at least one attribute of

the object and in response to an access request from a user for the object matching the retrieval condition and the identifier, performing access control to the object on the basis of the access right.

However, Nakagawa teaches a document having attributes such as a date when a document was made, that is, the attribute information to the object does not attach to the object and it is used for retrieving the object based on the retrieval condition entering from the user or retriever and access right to that user or retriever (col. 5, lines 1-45 and col. 8, col. lines 42-67); and performing the access control based on the access right and displaying the result (col. 9, lines 18-45 and col. 10, lines 10-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Tada with the teachings of Nakagawa. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of determining a attribute of the object such as date creator as retrieval condition and performing matching retrieval condition and access right to the document as disclosed (Nakagawa's col. 5, lines 1-45 and col. 9, lines 18-45), into the system of Tada for the purpose of managing registered document and retrieving document, document storing and managing as the retrieval condition (Nakagawa's col. 1, lines 8-10 and col. 4, lines 30-50 and line 65-67).

8. Claims 2-6 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.: 6,178,422 B1 issued to Tada et al. (hereinafter Tada) in view of US Patent No.: 5,819,295 issued to Nakagawa et al. (hereinafter Nakagawa) and further in view of US Patent No.: 6,189,032 B1 issued to Susaki et al. (hereinafter Susaki).

With respect to claim 2, Tada in view of Nakagawa discloses a method for performing access control for a stored object as discussed in claim 1.

Tada and Nakagawa disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Tada and Nakagawa do not teach wherein performing a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the object meets the retrieval condition, and controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition.

However, Susaki teaches access right to a certain operation such as reading, writing, deleting, updating or executing and performing the access control via the access control list and identifier of object such as file or service stored in the table (see figs. 4, 5 and 6, col. 7, lines 36-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Tada in view of Nakagawa with the teachings of Susaki by incorporating the use of performing a check and controlling access in association with retrieval condition as disclosed (Susaki's col. 7, lines 36-65), into the system of Tada for the purpose of controlling access right to a certain service by a user of client terminal (Susaki's col. 1, lines 10-12).

With respect to claims 3-6, Tada in view of Nakagawa discloses a method for performing access control for a stored object as discussed in claim 1.

Tada and Nakagawa disclose substantially the invention as claimed.

Tada and Nakagawa do not teach performing a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the identifier of the object has been set in association with the retrieval condition, and controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition if a result of the check indicates that the identifier of the access-requested object has been set in association with the retrieval condition; wherein the association between the retrieval condition and the identifier is changed according to need when addition, modification, or deletion of the object identified by the identifier is made; performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of OR of the matched retrieval conditions; and performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of AND of the matched retrieval conditions.

However, Susaki teaches access right to a certain operation such as reading, writing, deleting, updating or executing and performing the access control via the access control list and identifier of object such as file or service stored in the table (see figs. 4, 5 and 6, col. 7, lines 36-65);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Tada in view of Nakagawa with the teachings of Susaki by incorporating the use of performing a check and

controlling access in association with retrieval condition as disclosed (Susaki's col. 7, lines 36-65), into the system of Tada for the purpose of controlling access right to a certain service by a user of client terminal (Susaki's col. 1, lines 10-12).

Claim 11 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claim 12 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 3 hereinabove.

Claim 13 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 4 hereinabove.

Claim 14 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 5 hereinabove.


Claim 15 is essentially the same as claim 6 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 6 hereinabove.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANH LY, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via e-mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV (written authorization being given by Applicant(s) - MPEP 502.03 [R-2]) or fax to (571) 273-4039 (unofficial fax number directly to Examiner's Office).

The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or faxed to: Central Fax Center: (571) 273-8300

ANH LY 
JAN. 24th, 2008


JEAN FLEURANTIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER TC 2100